



THE BOOK OF

R

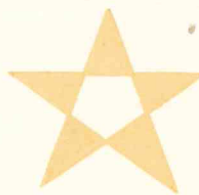


This book is all about radios and railroads, rainbows  
and rockets, and lots of other exciting R's.

*a Golden Book*



This  
Golden Book  
belongs to





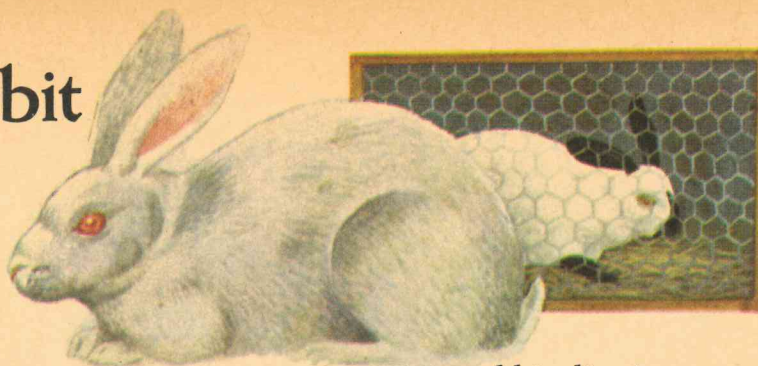
# MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY



CONSULTANT • BERTHA MORRIS PARKER  
BY JANE WERNER WATSON • PICTURES BY  
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# rabbit



A rabbit is a small, soft,  
furry animal.  
It has long ears  
and a short, fluffy tail.



Rabbits eat  
cabbages and lettuce  
and other plant foods, too.  
Wild rabbits make their homes  
in the shelter  
of tree roots  
or thick brush.

Tame rabbits live in cages.  
Some are raised for fur.  
Some are raised for food.  
Some are pets.

Mother rabbits  
have many babies.  
They take good care  
of their babies.

They pull soft down  
from their own fur coats  
to line nests  
for their baby bunnies.





# radio



We hear music and voices  
from far away over the radio.  
We say a radio program is  
broadcast.

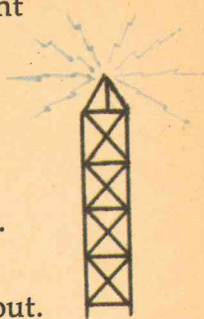
"Broadcast" means  
"throw in all directions."  
Most radio programs start  
in a broadcasting studio.



The entertainers  
speak or sing  
into a microphone.  
Or an orchestra plays  
with a microphone  
in front of it.  
The speaking, singing,  
or playing  
sets up waves in the air.  
We call these waves  
"sound waves."  
(See *sound*  
in the second S book.)

The sound waves affect  
a tiny electric current  
in the microphone.

This electric current  
is made stronger.  
It is sent up  
a transmitter tower.  
From the tower  
radio waves speed out.



Some of the waves  
strike the antenna  
of your radio set.  
They set up an electric current  
in it.

If the radio is turned on  
you can turn a knob  
and tune in to the program.

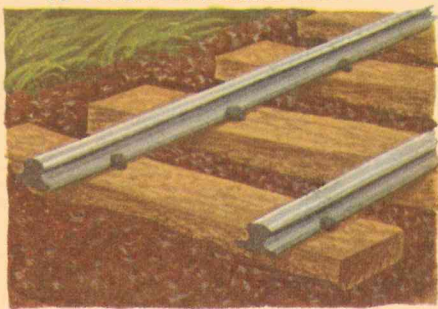
The sounds you hear  
come from the loudspeaker  
of your radio.

Radio waves travel so fast  
that you can hear a program  
at the very same time  
it is being broadcast!

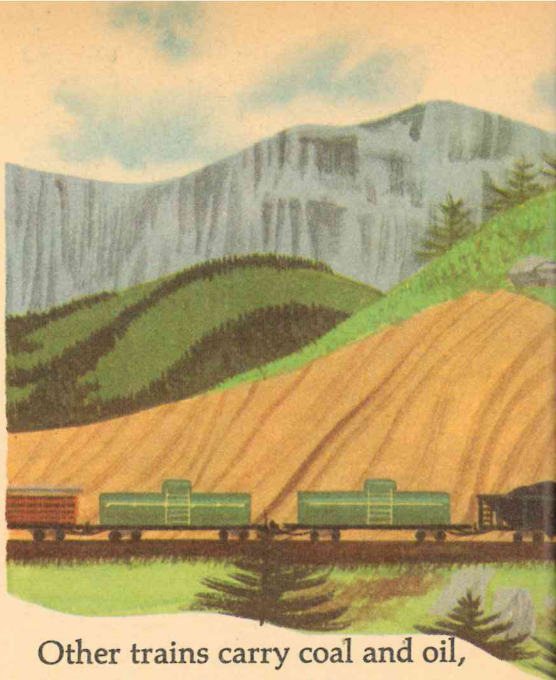


# railroad

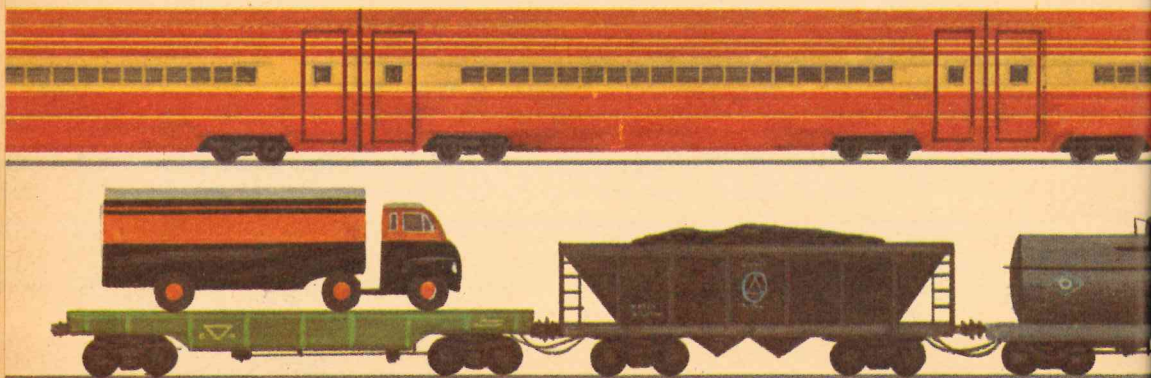
A railroad has a road or track  
made of steel rails.  
The rails are nailed down  
to wooden beams called ties.



The ties are laid on a bed  
made of gravel and cinders.  
Trains run on the track.  
Locomotives pull the trains.  
(See *locomotive* in the L book  
and *travel* in the T book.)  
Some of the trains carry people.  
They are passenger trains.



Other trains carry coal and oil,  
fruits and vegetables,  
cattle and machinery.  
They carry all sorts of loads.  
They are freight trains.  
The rims of a train's wheels  
fit over the steel rails  
of the track.







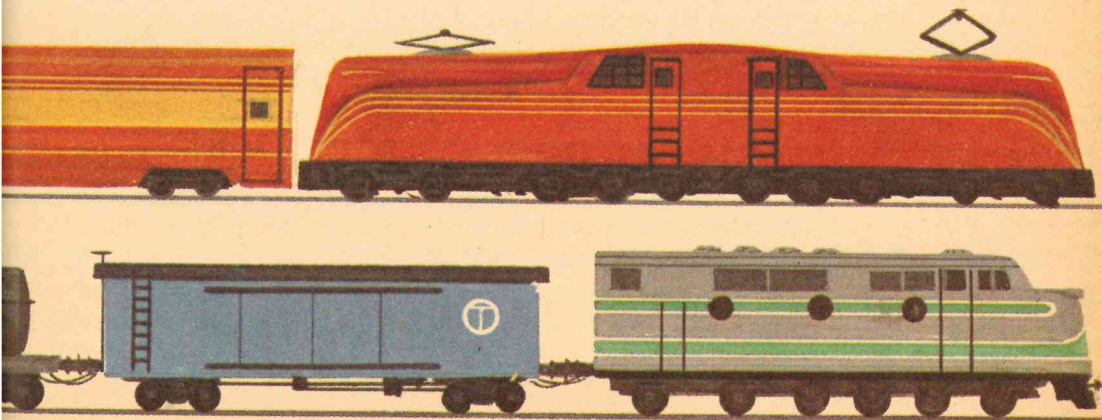
Trains run best  
when the track is smooth  
and level.

When railroad tracks are laid,  
tunnels are dug  
through mountains.

Bridges and trestles are built  
over rivers and deep places.

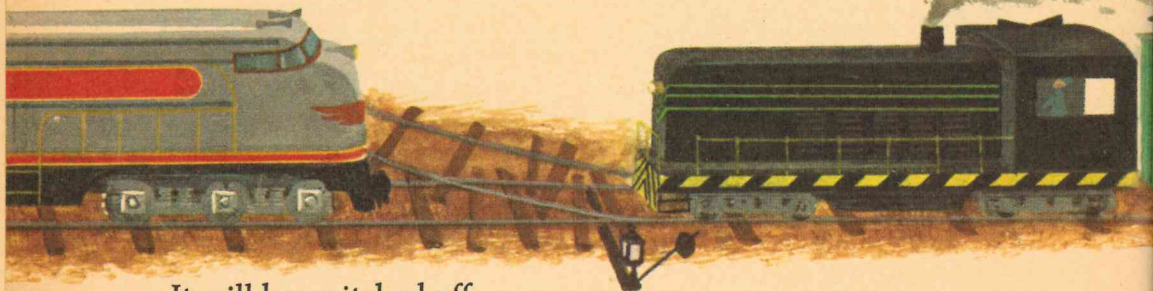
Embankments are built  
on low, wet land.

All these things help  
to make tracks level.



Many trains run  
on the same track.  
Here are two trains.  
They are coming  
toward each other  
on the same track.  
Will there be a wreck?  
No.  
One train comes to a switch.

Some signals tell him to go slow.  
Some tell him to stop.  
Some tell him the track  
is clear.  
Some signals have colored arms.  
They are called semaphores.  
Some signals have colored lights.  
Signals help keep the trains  
running safely.



It will be switched off  
onto a short side track  
called a siding.  
The track will be clear  
for the other train.  
Soon the first train  
will back up  
onto the main track again  
and go chugging on its way.  
There are signals  
along the track.  
Signals tell the engineer  
of a train  
what to do.

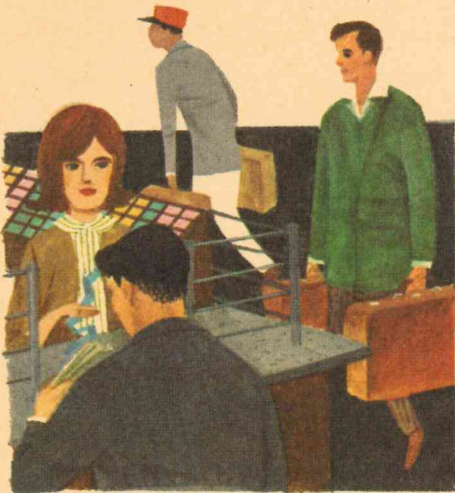
The men who work on a train  
are called the train crew.  
There is a fireman  
to help the engineer.  
There are brakemen  
and conductors.  
If it is a passenger train  
and there is a dining car,  
there are waiters and cooks.  
And there is a steward in charge.  
If there are sleeping cars,  
there are porters  
to take care of them.



Some railroad men  
keep the track in good shape.  
They are called section hands.

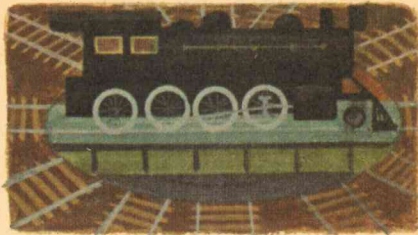


Some railroad men  
work in the stations.  
They take care of baggage  
and tickets.



Some railroad men  
look after railroad cars  
and locomotives  
between runs.  
These men work  
in the railroad yards.

A railroad yard  
is full of tracks.  
It has many switches  
and sidings.  
It has small switch engines  
to move cars around.  
It has turntables, too.



The turntables  
turn locomotives around.  
A locomotive is driven  
onto a turntable.  
The "table" turns around  
with the locomotive on it  
until it heads  
in the right direction.  
The turntable may be  
in a building called  
a roundhouse.

Locomotives stay  
in the roundhouse  
until their next run.  
A railroad has many, many  
kinds of work  
for railroad men to do.

# rain



Rain falls from clouds.  
A rain cloud is made of water.  
The water is in tiny droplets.  
Sometimes many tiny droplets  
gather into a big drop.  
The drop is too heavy  
to float in the cloud.

It falls to earth.

It is a drop of rain.

If raindrops fall  
through very cold air,  
they may freeze.

They fall to earth  
as sleet.

If the air around a cloud  
is very, very cold,  
ice crystals form  
instead of raindrops.

They fall to earth as snow.



Plants need water  
to help them stay alive  
and grow.

The roots of a plant  
get the water  
the plant needs  
from the ground.



Where rain falls or snow melts  
water soaks into the ground.

It is ready for plants to use.

Where there is very little rain  
and no other way  
of getting water,  
few plants grow.

The ground is too dry  
for most plants.

We say the land is a desert.

(See *desert* in the D book.)

But it can rain too much.

Then there may be a flood.

(See *flood* in the F book.)

Rain can be good or bad.

It is not good for a picnic!



# rainbow



We often see a rainbow  
if it rains  
while the sun is out.  
All the colors of the rainbow  
are in sunlight.  
When sunlight falls  
on raindrops,  
its colors separate.

We see them arch in bands  
across the sky.

The order of the colors  
is always the same—

red  
orange  
yellow  
green  
blue  
violet.



Sometimes we can see  
a rainbow in the spray  
of a water sprinkler  
or a waterfall.

# rain clothes

It is fun  
to go out in the rain.  
But when we do,  
it is best to be dressed  
for the rain.

Rubbers  
or boots  
keep our feet dry.



Rain hats  
or plastic hoods  
keep our heads dry.

Raincoats  
keep most of  
our clothing dry.

Some raincoats  
are called ponchos.  
You pull a poncho  
over your head  
to put it on.

When it rains, some people  
carry umbrellas  
to keep the rain off.



# ranch



A ranch is a big farm  
for raising cattle or sheep.

On a cattle ranch,  
cowboys look after  
the cattle.

The cattle wander  
over the land,  
eating grass.

We call this  
grazing on the range.

Cowboys often ride the range  
to see that the cattle  
are safe and healthy.



When calves are born,  
the cowboys  
must brand them.

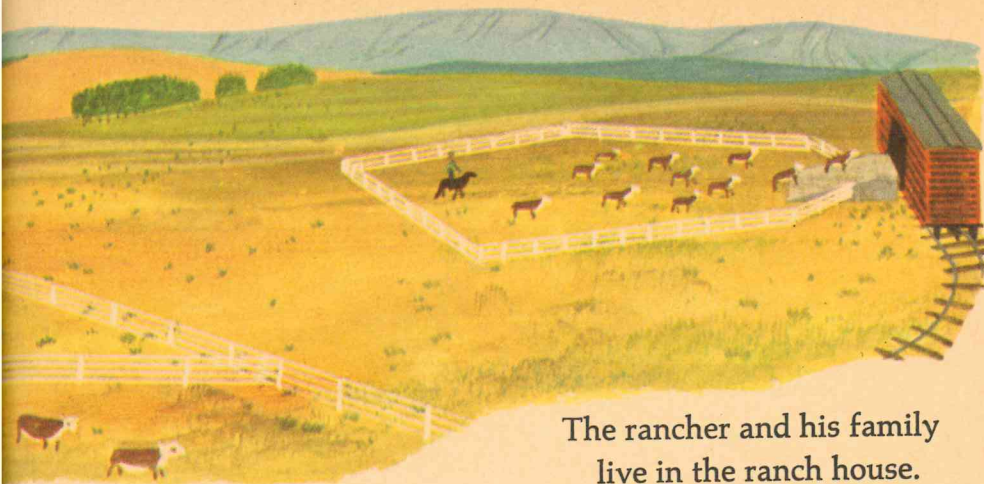
A brand is the mark  
of the ranch.



The cowboys stamp the brand  
onto the calf's skin  
with a hot iron.

Then if the calf gets lost,  
people can always tell  
what ranch it belongs to.  
The brand tells them.





Sometimes cowboys camp out  
on the range.

They have a chuck wagon  
that carries their food  
and a cook  
to cook their meals.

When the cowboys  
are not riding the range,  
they live in a bunkhouse.

They keep their horses  
in a big pen  
called a corral.



The rancher and his family  
live in the ranch house.

The rancher decides  
when to send cattle  
to market.

Then the cowboys herd them  
into a shipping pen.

The cattle walk up  
onto a platform  
and into a truck  
or into the cattle car of a train.

And off to market they go.  
For the cattle rancher's business  
is raising cattle to sell.

A ranch where people  
pay to come  
and spend their vacation  
is called a dude ranch.

There are many ranches  
in the West.

# record



We play records  
on a record player.  
Sounds are recorded  
on a record  
by a recording needle.  
The needle cuts a wavy groove  
around the record.  
If we want to hear the sounds,  
we set the record  
spinning on the turntable  
of a record player.  
We place the record player's  
needle onto the record.  
It fits into  
the record's grooves.  
Then the record player  
plays the sounds  
which were recorded.  
Music or voices  
or any sort of sound  
can be on a record.  
Records are sometimes called  
"discs" or "platters"  
because they are round  
and flat.

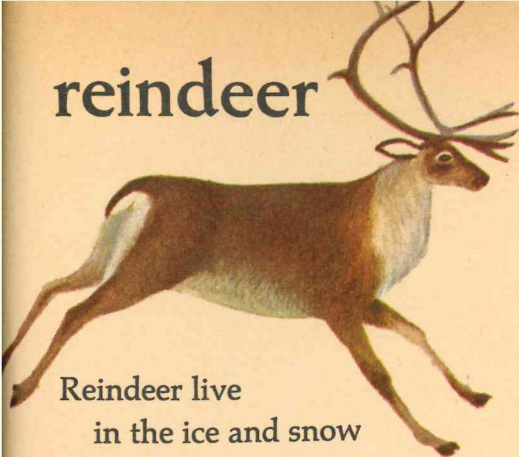
# refrigerator



A refrigerator keeps food cold.  
Keeping food cold  
helps keep it from spoiling.  
Years ago, the only refrigerators  
were iceboxes.  
The iceman put ice  
in the icebox.  
As the ice melted,  
it cooled the food  
in the icebox.  
Now our refrigerators are run  
by electricity or gas.  
They have a special liquid  
in the working part.  
The liquid turns to gas,  
then back to liquid,  
over and over again.  
Each time it turns to gas  
it cools the food.



# reindeer



Reindeer live  
in the ice and snow  
of the far north.  
They live in herds.  
Reindeer help people.  
They furnish milk to drink,  
and meat to eat,  
and skins to wear.  
They pull heavy loads  
over the snow.  
Stories say that reindeer  
pull Santa Claus' sleigh  
on Christmas Eve.



# reptile

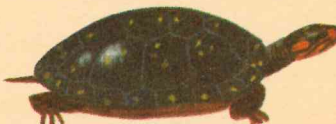
A reptile is an animal.  
It may have short legs.  
Or it may have no legs at all.



Snakes are reptiles  
that have no legs.  
They wriggle over the ground.



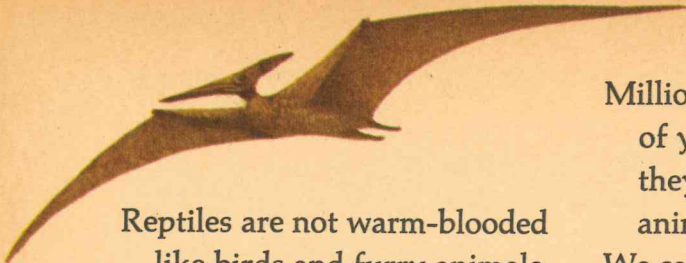
Lizards are reptiles.  
Most lizards have short legs.  
They can move very fast.



Turtles are reptiles  
that have hard shells.  
Some are called tortoises.

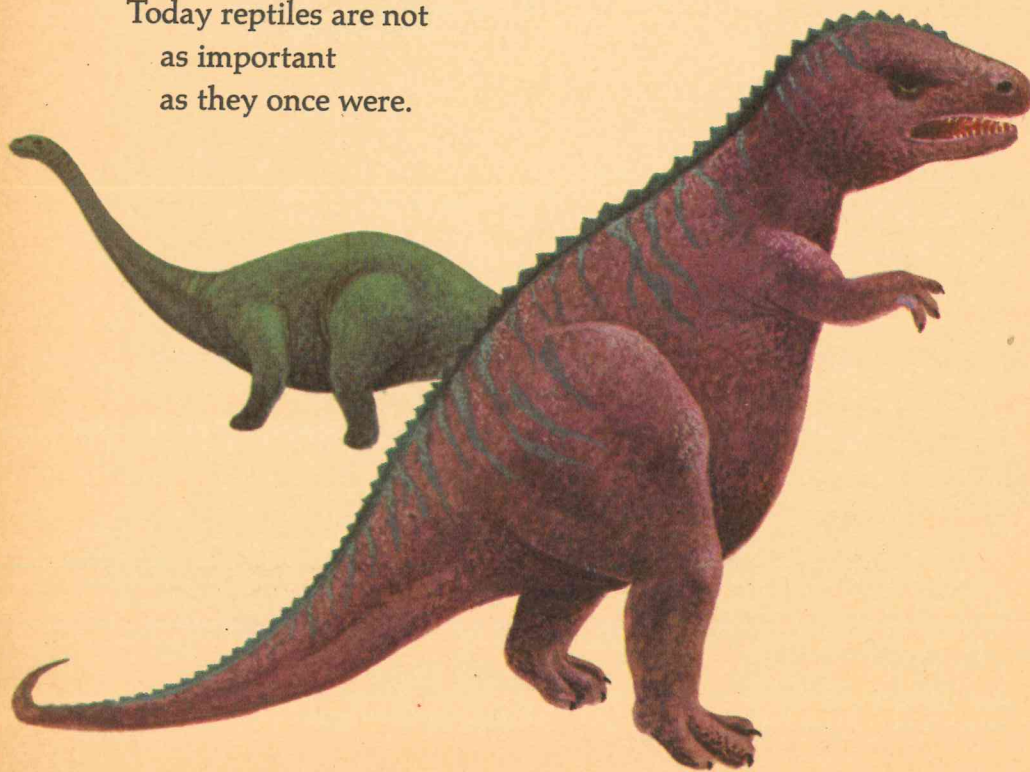


Alligators and crocodiles  
are reptiles, too.



Reptiles are not warm-blooded  
like birds and furry animals.  
The reptiles that live  
where winters are cold  
must find a place to sleep  
during the cold weather.  
When they sleep  
through the winter  
we say they are hibernating.  
Today reptiles are not  
as important  
as they once were.

Millions and millions  
of years ago,  
they were the leading  
animals on earth.  
We call that time  
the Age of Reptiles.  
Many of the reptiles of long ago  
were dinosaurs.  
(See *dinosaur* in the D book.)  
Some reptiles swam in the sea.  
There were even reptiles  
that flew through the air.





# rhinoceros



Indian  
Rhinoceros

The rhinoceros is big  
and clumsy looking.  
Of all four-legged animals,  
only the hippopotamus  
and the elephant  
are bigger.

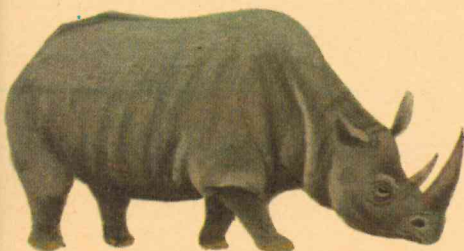
The rhinoceros has  
one or two sharp horns  
sticking up on its nose

It has thick skin.

It lives where it is hot.

The rhinoceros  
cannot see very well.

But it has a good sense of smell  
and very good hearing.



African Rhinoceros

# rice



Rice is a food.

It comes from a rice plant.

We eat the seeds  
of the rice plant.

Rice grows well  
in a lot of water.

Water is kept standing  
in the fields  
where rice is grown.



These fields of rice  
are called paddies.

They have low walls  
around them  
to hold the water in.

Small rice plants are set  
into the wet fields by hand.

When the rice is ripe,  
the water is drained out.

In many countries  
rice is the food  
that people eat  
every day.

# river

A river is

a large stream of water  
running downhill  
on its way to the sea.

Many little streams  
join to make a river.

A river wears away  
the earth it flows over  
and makes itself a valley.

Water runs fast  
when it runs down  
a steep hill  
or a mountain.

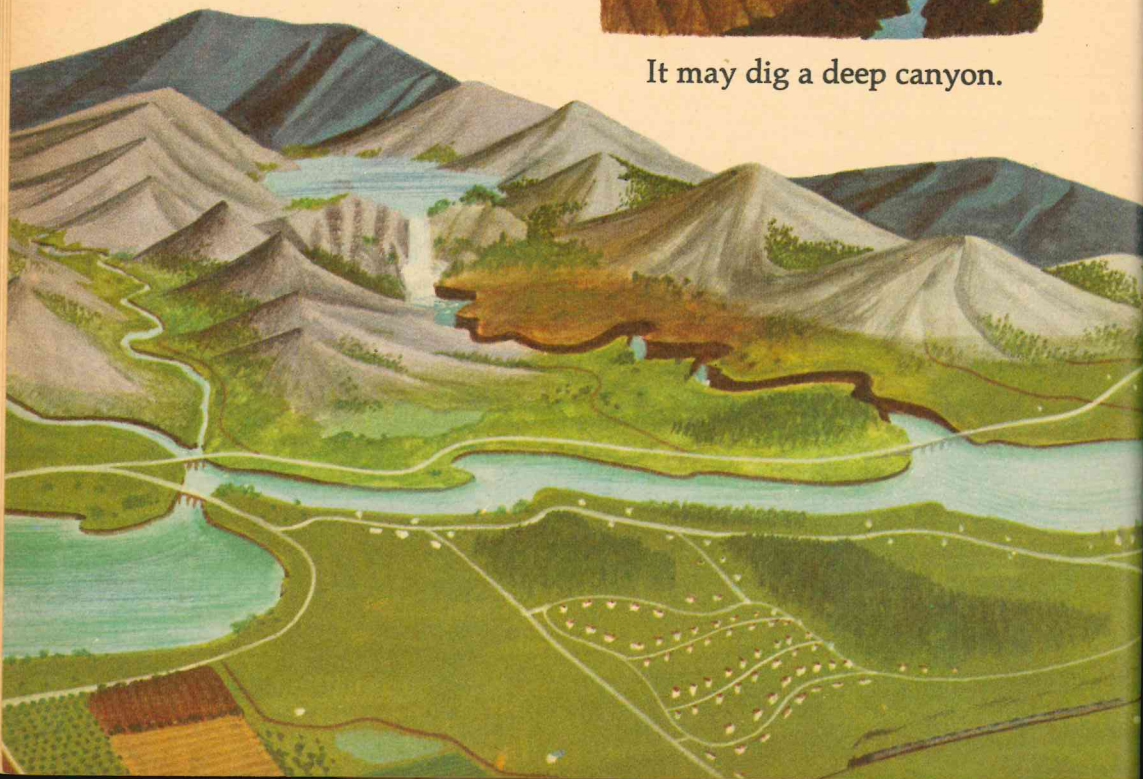
It can pick up sand  
and pebbles  
and bits of earth  
and carry them along.

It can roll boulders.

As it moves earth and rocks,  
a fast-flowing river  
digs its valley  
deeper and deeper.



It may dig a deep canyon.



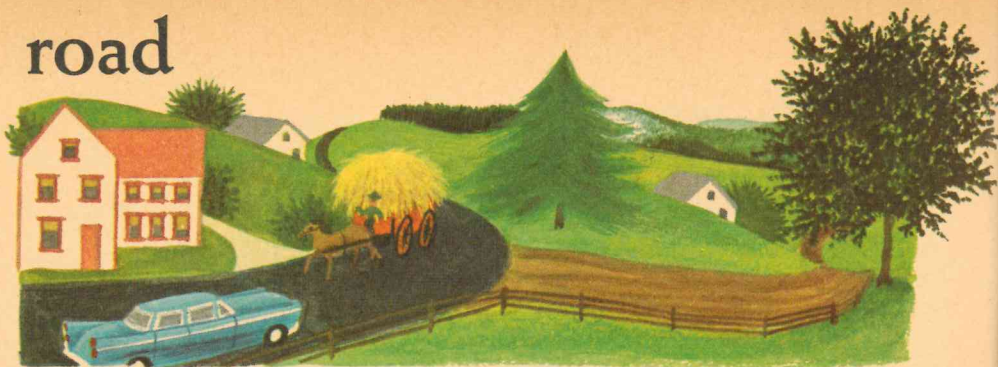


Some rivers run  
through almost level land.  
They do not run as fast  
as those that run  
down steep slopes.  
They slowly wear away  
the banks  
along their sides.  
Their valleys  
grow wider and wider.  
Wide, slow rivers  
are easy for boats  
to travel on.  
Rivers are often called  
"water highways"  
because so many boats  
travel on them.  
The boats carry people.  
They carry goods to market.

Many cities are built  
beside busy rivers.  
When a river  
runs into the sea  
it drops its load  
of earth and sand  
and pebbles  
picked up from the land.  
Sometimes the load  
a river carries  
is washed far out to sea.  
Sometimes it piles up  
on the bottom of the sea  
at the river's mouth.  
In time it reaches  
above the water  
and becomes dry land.  
This new land  
is called a delta.



# road



A road is a broad path  
for cars or carts  
to travel on.

Some country roads  
are not used much.

No special surface or topping  
is put on them.

They are just dirt roads.

They may have deep ruts  
cut by the car  
or cart wheels.

People work on other roads  
to make them smooth.

They put a surface on them  
so that they will not  
get too muddy  
when it rains.

Many roads have  
crushed stone on top.

The rain goes  
through this surface  
and leaves it dry.

Some early roads  
through the woods  
had logs for a surface.



These roads were called  
corduroy roads.

They were bumpy!

But even long, long ago  
some good roads were made.



They were paved  
with large, flat stones.

Later some roads  
and city streets  
were paved with bricks.



Roads paved with stone  
or brick were all right  
for horses and wagons  
and for marching men.



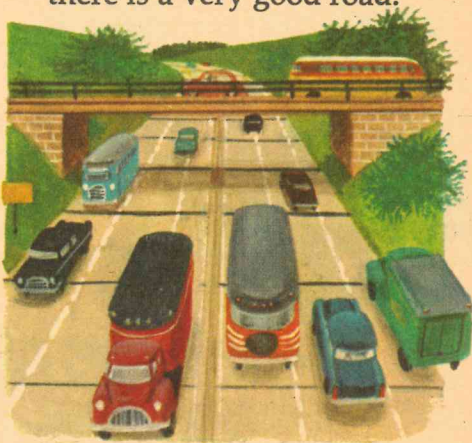
But they are not good  
for automobiles.  
With automobiles  
people traveled  
faster and farther.  
And every year there were  
more and more automobiles.  
We needed  
more and better roads.  
Now most of our roads and  
streets are paved with  
concrete or with blacktop.



Concrete is poured  
on a smooth bed  
of crushed stone.  
The poured concrete is thick  
and wet and white.  
It dries hard and smooth.



Blacktop is also spread  
on a smooth bed  
of crushed stone.  
It is thick and hot and sticky.  
Heavy rollers press it flat  
and smooth.  
When it dries  
there is a very good road.



Busy main roads  
are called highways.  
(See *highway* in the H book.)  
Many trucks and automobiles  
travel on them.  
We say the traffic is heavy.  
(See *traffic* in the T book.)

# robin



Robins are friendly birds.  
They live near people.

A robin is often  
the first bird we see  
in spring  
that we did not see  
in winter.

We know the robin  
by its reddish breast.  
Robins build their nests  
of sticks and leaves,  
bits of string,  
grass and mud.



A robin's nest  
may not be beautiful.  
But it is strong.  
The mother bird lays her eggs  
in the nest.  
The eggs are pale blue-green.  
We call this color  
"robin's egg blue."  
Hungry baby robins hatch  
from the eggs.

# rock



Rock is the stuff  
the earth's crust  
is made of.  
Much of it is in big  
masses or layers.  
But some is in small pieces.  
Solid rock is so hard,  
it seems as if  
it could never be changed.  
But it is changed.  
Water carrying bits of rock  
can break up big rocks.



Waves eat away rock cliffs  
beside a lake or sea.  
Rivers cut their way down  
through solid rock.



Wind carrying sand  
can carve rock  
into strange shapes.

Glaciers can grind up rock.  
(See *glacier* in the G book.)

Rock is always  
being worn away,  
slowly, slowly.  
But slowly, slowly,  
new rock is made.



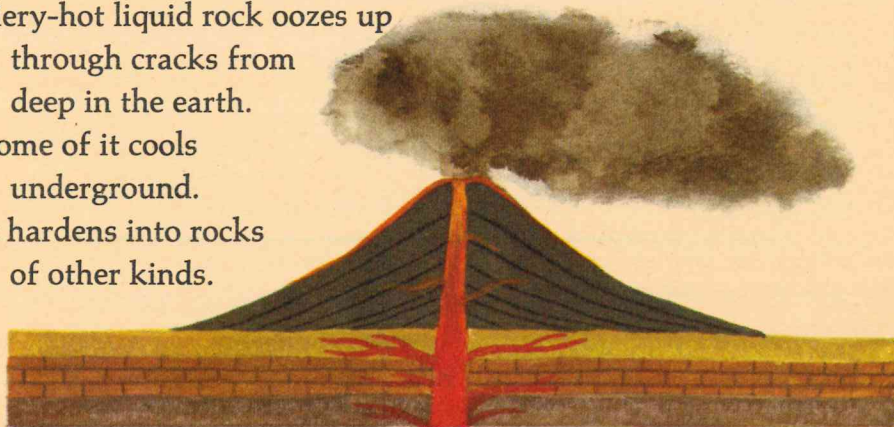
On the bottom of the sea,  
layers of mud and sand  
with pebbles and shells  
in them are built up.

In time these layers  
become solid rock  
of different kinds.

Fiery-hot liquid rock oozes up  
through cracks from  
deep in the earth.

Some of it cools  
underground.

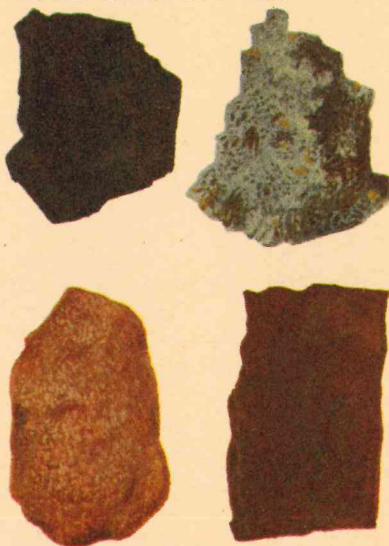
It hardens into rocks  
of other kinds.



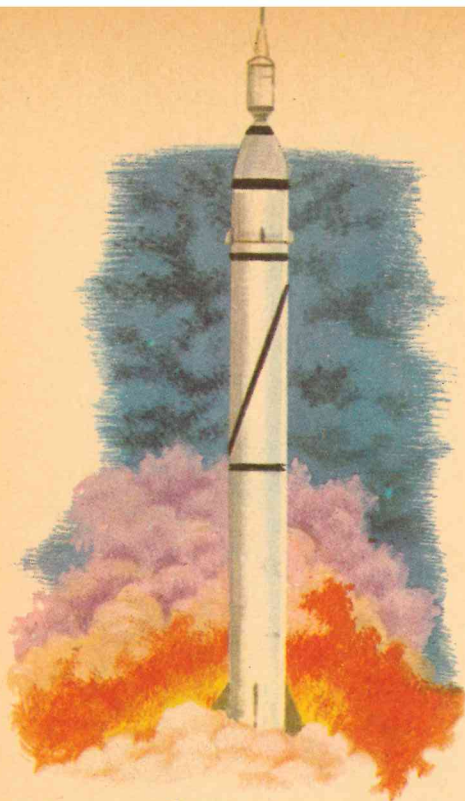
Some of the hot, liquid rock  
pours out of volcanoes.

We call it lava.

It hardens into still  
other kinds of rock.



There are many, many  
different kinds of rock.



# rocket

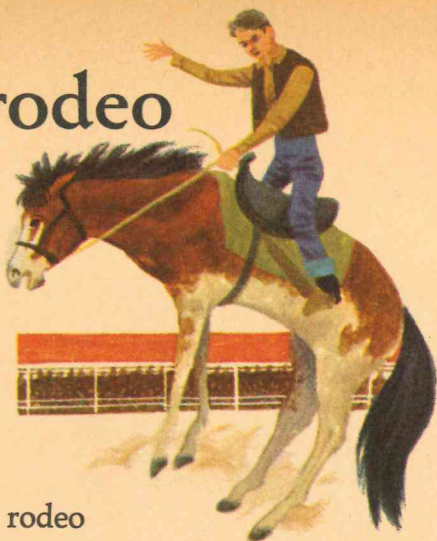
A rocket is a long tube.  
It can be made to rise  
high into the air.  
Fuel is burned  
inside the rocket  
to make gas.  
Some of the hot gas  
shoots out the back  
of the rocket.  
Some pushes forward inside.  
It pushes the rocket ahead.



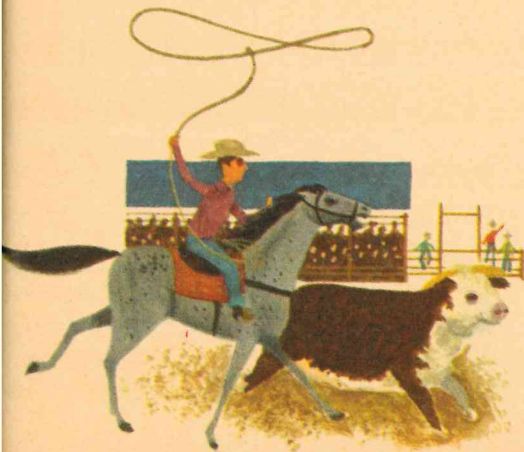
Fourth of July skyrockets  
have paper tubes.  
Inside is a powder to burn  
and form gas.  
When the skyrocket  
is high in the sky,  
another powder lights.  
When it burns,  
it looks like colored stars.  
Big rockets can go into space.  
Many big rockets have tubes  
made up of sections.  
One section burns its fuel  
and drops off.  
Then the next section  
does the same, and so on.  
The top of a big rocket  
is the most important part.  
It is called the payload.  
The payload  
may be a warhead.  
It may be a satellite.  
It may even be  
a space capsule  
with an astronaut inside.  
(See *satellite* and *space*  
in the S books.)



# rodeo



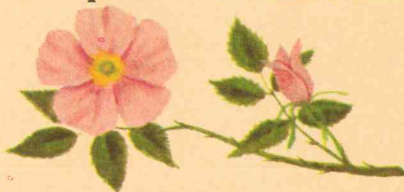
A rodeo  
is a cowboy show.  
The cowboys do fancy riding  
on horses and bulls.  
They do fancy roping.  
Cowboys pay to enter a rodeo.  
If they win contests,  
they win money prizes.  
A rodeo is a lively show.



# rose



A rose is a pretty flower.  
It may be red or pink,  
yellow or white.  
It may grow on a tall vine.  
It may grow on a low bush.  
Most kinds of roses have  
sharp thorns on their stems.



A rose may grow wild  
and have five petals.  
It may be grown in a garden  
and have many more  
than five petals.  
Gardeners give their roses  
special food and care.  
The rose belongs to a big family  
called the rose family.  
Apples, pears, peaches,  
cherries, strawberries  
and many other plants  
belong to the rose family, too.

# rubber

Rubber got its name  
because it could rub out  
pencil marks.

Rubber can stretch.

Rubber bounces.

Rubber is strong.

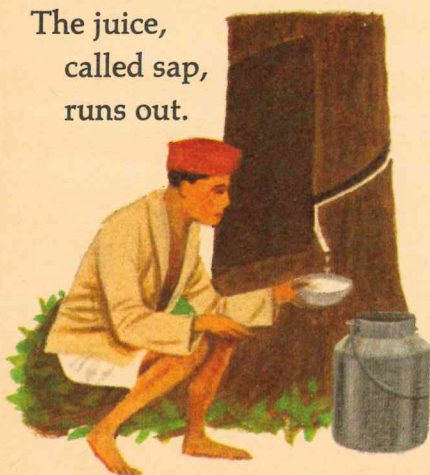
All rubber used to come  
from rubber trees.

Today much of it is made  
from oil or gas.

But a lot of natural rubber  
is still used.

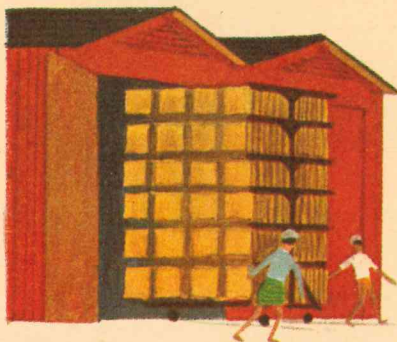
To get this rubber,  
men make cuts  
in the bark  
of rubber trees.

The juice,  
called sap,  
runs out.



Men catch the sap  
in cups.

They pour it into tanks  
to thicken.



They make it into balls  
or sheets of rubber.

Then they send it to factories  
where it is made usable.

Rubber is used in  
tires for automobiles,  
airplanes, tractors  
and bicycles.

We have rubber balls,  
or balls with rubber  
inside them.

(See *ball* in the B book.)

There are rubber hoses  
and boots  
and balloons.

Rubber is used  
in many, many ways.



